The Standards Forum

News on the DOE Technical Standards Program

Volume 7 – Number 3 – December 1999

Federal Government Coordination on Standards

The Role of NIST and the Interagency Committee on Standards Policy

By Belinda L. Collins, Ph.D. Dr. Collins is the director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Office of Standards Services, Gaithersburg, Maryland. She chairs the federal Interagency Committee on Standards Policy and the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation, and is the immedate past chairman of the National Cooperation for Laboratory Accreditation.*

Background—Congressional Action

On March 7, 1996, a major change in how Federal agencies use voluntary standards was made when the President signed the National Technology Transfer and Advancement Act (PL 104-113)[1] into law. This Law directs Federal agencies to use technical standards developed by voluntary consensus standards bodies, to the extent practicable, to achieve greater reliance on voluntary standards and conformity assessment bodies with decreased dependence on government-unique standards. The Law also tasks the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) with coordinating Federal, state and local standards and conformity assessment activities, and with the private sector.

Need for Coordination

A 1995 report by the National Research Council (NRC)[2] underscored the need for greater coordination among public and private entities in standards and conformity assessment activities in the United States. This report warned that, without a more coherent approach to standards and conformity assessment procedures, U.S. interests in the global market would suffer. It also recommended that NIST serve as the "lead U.S. agency for ensuring federal use of standards developed by private, consensus organizations to meet regulatory and procurement needs" (p.3). The NRC report concluded that "Effective, long-term public-private cooperation in developing and using standards requires a clear division of responsibilities and effective information transfer between government and industry. Improved institutional mechanisms are needed to effect lasting change." (p.3)

What is the Federal Role?

The Federal Government has long participated in the voluntary standards arena. It has several roles in the U.S. standards process—purchaser, participant in standards development, provider of technical input and advice, trade promoter, and partner with the private sector. The government also issues regulations that may complement or supersede standards activities in the private sector; however, the National Technology Transfer and Advancement Act (PL 104-113) strongly encourages agencies to increase their reliance on voluntary consensus standards to the extent practicable. Clearly, coordination and communication of Federal efforts is required, and this happens through NIST and its activities with the Interagency Committee on Standards Policy (ICSP).

Coordination Under PL 104-113

Chaired by NIST on behalf of the Secretary of Commerce, the Interagency Committee on Standards Policy (ICSP), is the primary mechanism for coordinating standards-related activities of the Federal Government. The ICSP is made up of senior level representatives from each of the 15 Federal Departments, such as the Department of Commerce and the Department of

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a note from the Manager . . .

DOE Technical Standards Program

Technical Standards: Your Path to Greater Efficiency and Improved Communication

OMB Circular A-119 states, "The Policies of OMB Circular A-119 are intended to: (1) Encourage federal agencies to benefit from the expertise of the private sector; (2) promote federal agency participation in such bodies to ensure creation of standards that are useable by federal agencies; and (3) reduce reliance on government-unique standards where an existing voluntary standard would suffice....When properly conducted, standards development can increase productivity and efficiency in Government and industry, expand opportunities for international trade, conserve resources, improve health and safety, and protect the environment."

Forging Benefits from Burdens

Government-unique specifications, quality assurance programs, standards, and specific voluntary consensus standards can be a burden to Government contractors and can result in increased costs to the Federal Government. By example, several major DOE contractors are subject to multiple and redundant requirements.

DOE contractors (such as Allied Signal, Westinghouse, and Lockheed Martin), provide services for DOE, DoD (including the Army, Navy, and Air Force), NASA and other Federal agencies. They also compete in the U.S. market and the world market. At present, they often must maintain several overlaping sets of standards to serve the requirements of their different Federal contracting agencies, and their national and international customers. I am aware of one DOE contractor that had seven different QA programs!

In a better world, all of the contracted agencies would recognize or develop common domestic and international standards. Contractors could then operate with the same standards for Federal, U.S., and world markets and keep only one set of "books." This would certainly result in lower costs to the government through more efficient and effective contractors and bolster the competitive position of those contractors as a U.S. company in world markets. While this example is a bit oversimplified, it demonstrates the intent of the National Technology Transfer and Advancement Act of 1995 (Public Law 104-113) and OMB Circular A-119 in requiring Federal agencies to rely more on voluntary consensus standards. The interagency community has taken a proactive stance toward this intent. The Interagency Committee on Standards Policy (ICSP), composed of a "Standards Executive" from each Federal Executive Agency (DOE, DoD, NASA, EPA, FDA, etc.) was formed to develop Federal standards policy in accordance with OMB Circular A-119. Dick Black, of EH's Office of Nuclear Safety Policy and Standards, serves as the DOE Standards Executive on this committee (I am his alternate).

Enter the Technical Standards Program

The DOE Technical Standards Program (TSP) provides the means for DOE to incorporate and implement policy developed by the ICSP. We promote the use of voluntary consensus standards (VCSs) for many reasons: they are usually the best standards, foster distinct economic advantages, create efficiencies, and establish common referents. VCSs also enhance communication and cooperation with other Government agencies, industry, and standards development organizations in the U.S. and around the world.

Rick Serbu, TSP Manager

The DOE TSP, through its Technical Standards Managers' Committee (TSMC), provides an open and interactive forum for each organization's Technical Standards Manager (TSM)—Headquarters, Field, and Contractor—to introduce new ways of doing business in DOE. It is truly a cooperative, coordinated program! We introduce good ideas and good business practices as models for the way we desire to do business in the TSP, evaluate them through the TSMC, and incorporate and implement them through our TSP Procedures.

DOE Topical Committees (TCs) also help establish user-identified technical standards that best serve DOE and its contractors. These actions can greatly reduce DOE's costs and efforts in our many required accreditations at the local, state, agency, and national levels. An example of how the TSP supports ICSP policy is the effort of Bob Wayland, the SNL TSM, in establishing our first TC. Bob worked with the TSP to help institute our system of TCs as he took the lead in developing the Metrology TC. This TC now has DOE-wide participation and with a related TC (the Accreditation TC) has the interest and participation of other Federal agencies. These TCs, working on behalf of DOE with NIST, the ICSP, and other Federal agencies, have in turn supported the development of the National Council for Laboratory Accreditation (NACLA), with its ultimate goal of one assessment per laboratory in a given field of testing or calibration.

DOE's TSMs and TCs are key elements in effectively using standards across DOE and in implementing Federal standards policies and requirements. Senior managers across DOE can be proud of the efforts of their Technical Standards Managers and Topical Committee participants!

— Rick Serbu

Welcome Aboard !

The Technical Standards Managers (TSMs) are the backbone of the DOE Technical Standards Program! These knowledgeable individuals serve as their organization's standards point of contact and contribute to the coordination of Department-wide TSP activities. A great deal of their work time is spent in assuring that standards activities take place in a manner that will promote safe, economical, and efficient operations locally and across the DOE complex.

With nearly 70 active and mobile people involved in TSM activities, it can be a daunting task just to keep up with the retirements and reassignments affecting the TSM roster. *The Standards Forum* is initiating this "Welcome Aboard" feature to introduce you to the new TSMs and help you keep abreast of the rapidly changing make-up of the Technical Standards Managers' Committee (TSMC).

The TSMC welcomes the following recently added members.

Jeffrey S. (Jeff) Paris
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j6y@bechteljacobs.org

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Mohammad.Mozumder@dp.doe.gov

Important Notice: The TSP intends to go "paperless" with the distribution of *The Standards Forum* and *Standards Actions* near the end of this calendar year! Printed copy distribution will end and distribution will be solely through the TSP Web Site (http://tis.eh.doe.gov/techstds/). We plan to provide notification of new monthly and quarterly publications through a banner or "What's New" notice on the TSP Web Site. We will also publish a notice on the new EH Portal - perhaps incorporating push technology to send you a copy via your "customized" personal page. At present, we do not intend to send broad e-mail notices, but we will investigate using DOE Web features such as DOECAST. We want to reach all of our 2,000 readers (DOE and non-DOE) currently on direct distribution, as well as the many others who receive locally-circulated copies of these documents. Contact Jeff Feit at 301-903-3927 (jeffrey.feit@ eh.doe.gov) or Rick Serbu at 301-903-2856 (richard.serbu@eh.doe.gov) if you have suggestions or "lessons learned."

Standards Forum

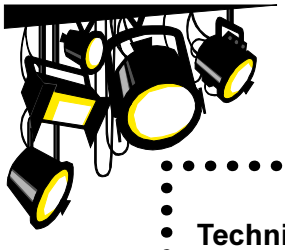
Editor ..... Marty Marchbanks

Distribution: If you would like to have your name added to (or removed from) the mailing list for this publication, or you need to make an address change, please notify Marty Marchbanks, Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL), 423-241-3658; Fax: 423-574-0382; e-mail: **mmf@ornl.gov**.

Comments: If you have any questions or comments please contact Rick Serbu, EH-31, 301-903-2856; e-mail: **Richard.Serbu@eh.doe.gov**. If you have any questions or comments on DOE standards projects, please call Don Williams, ORNL, 423-574-8710; e-mail: **williamsdljr@ornl.gov**.

Publication: ORNL and DOE's ES&H Technical Information Services publish *The Standards Forum* quarterly for the DOE Technical Standards Program.

Technical Standards Manager Spotlight



Rob Cuello
Technical Standards Manager
Pacific Northwest National Laboratory
Richland, Washington

Rob Cuello is the Manager for the Requirements Management (RM) group for Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL) in Richland, Washington. He has held this position since April 1999. He attended his first Technical Standards Managers' Committee (TSMC) meeting at Nashville in May 1999. Rob says he was a bit overwhelmed because he was new to the "standards" environment. However, because of his appreciation for technical standards and the value of the information sharing available through the TSMC, he looks forward to interacting with this group in the future.

During most of Rob's career, he has been involved in various aspects of Quality Assurance. Before coming to Richland, he spent 14 years supporting R&D programs and projects as a Quality Engineer, most recently with the Marine Sciences Laboratory in Sequim, Washington.

Requirements Management—Central to PNNL's Standards-Based Management System

Requirements management is one of the main functions of PNNL's Standards-Based Management System (SBMS). The purpose of the SBMS is to provide professional staff with policies, standards, and Laboratory-wide procedures and guidelines that are current, accurate, and relevant to the work they perform. Rob's RM group handles many diverse activities, including the Technical Standards Program and support for standards activities such as the identification and management of the set of external requirement documents (i.e., rules; orders; directives; and federal, state, and local laws) that govern activities at PNNL. Two of the main RM functions are to 1) maintain records of decision that document the basis for selection of external requirements and implemention methods and 2) maintain a database that provides a linkage between requirements, standards, management systems and implemention methods.

…it's important to stay actively involved with the development of non-Government standards, not only because it's now required by law to use them whenever possible, but also because such involvement is the only way to ensure that such standards meet the needs of Federal research and development activities.

— Rob Cuello

Requirements Integration and Tailoring—Basic to PNNL's Functions

Rob is in the process of developing a Requirements Integration and Tailoring process within PNNL that will be used to define the work, analyze the risks and hazards, and help identify the appropriate requirements and standards needed to perform the work. An integrated and tailored set of requirements and standards will provide a basis for adequate protection of the public, workers, and environment, while supporting the continuity of PNNL's operations.

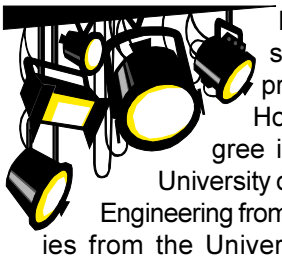
Bringing It All Together—With Standards

Rob is convinced that standards are important at PNNL. Furthermore, he stresses that a mix of DOE Technical Standards and voluntary consensus standards are needed to help drive PNNL operations effectively. "Flexibility in the use of these standards is essential," Rob says, "because of the wide range of basic and applied research activities that are performed at PNNL." He also thinks that it's important to stay actively involved with the development of non-Government standards, not only because it's now required by law to use them whenever possible, but also because such involvement is the only way to ensure that such standards meet the needs of Federal research and development activities.

On a Personal Note

Rob graduated from Washington State University with a bachelor's degree in Zoology. He is married and has two children, Bryce (age 15) and Cianna (age 12). He enjoys traveling, coaching, playing and watching most sports.

Technical Standards Manager Spotlight



Howard W. Etkind is charged with construction safety oversite for the five project sites of the Ohio Field Office. Howard has a Bachelor of Science Degree in Mechanical Engineering from the University of New Haven, A Masters of Science in Engineering from the University of Cincinnati, MBA studies from the University of Missouri-St. Louis, and has completed his Ph.D. course work from the University of Cincinnati in Systems and Occupational Safety Engineering for the Mechanical-Industrial-Nuclear Engineering Program.

The stated goals and missions of the Ohio Field Office are to clean up its five sites in Ohio and western New York. The organization will then disband and scatter its environmental professionals across the country to assist other DOE organizations in cleaning up their sites.

In addition to his responsibilities as Technical Standards Manager (TSM), Howard is involved in Voluntary Protection Plan administration, start-up teams, safety analysis report reviews, development of facility bases for interim operations, and general safety engineering duties. He is currently detailed to the Miamisburg Environmental Management Project as a Facility Representative for all the demolition and support activities.

Howard's response to inquiries from *The Standards Forum* revealed a continuing interest and dedication to standards activities:

How did you first become involved in standards and associated areas?

My first real exposure to the wide influence of standards was during a college internship with General Dynamic's Electric Boat Shipyard in Groton, Connecticut. They had the most incredible standards library I had ever seen, most of it on microfilm. I was placed in the hydraulic design section and spent my first month there just reading enough standards so as not to repeat mistakes identified and solved many years earlier. It was then I knew that instead of spending my days reading and following standards, I wanted to help write and develop them.

Later, I received training in Safety Engineering at the Army Materials Command's School of Engineering and Logistics. The practicum was at the old Army Aviation Systems Command in St. Louis, where I managed the system safety programs for the Black Hawk and Chinook helicopters. I also got heavily involved in a revision of MIL-STD 882B, the grandfather of modern system safety theory and practice. I was then hooked into the standards writing world for good.

What do you believe to be the benefits of a really good Standards Program?

Avoiding the need to continually reinvent the wheel. During my ten years in DOE service, I have seen a great effort to capture the years of expertise and knowledge possessed by members of the DOE family. These efforts have produced an incredible wealth of excellent engineering and management information that is being sorted, quantified, quality checked, and written into standards that will support both scientific and economic growth for the 21th century. Standards help to avoid repeating mistakes that were solved many years earlier by other hard working engineers, scientists and researchers.

Howard Etkind and engineering great Thomas Edison

What makes the Standards Program at the Ohio Field Office different from that at other DOE sites?

The time line of our mission is very short—by 2005 the mission will be complete and our office will cease to exist. We are now limited to using standards that are directly related to our primary mission of environmental remediation. We are focused on the best and fastest way to return the sites to the public in the form of green fields and industrial parks. This makes us great followers of consensus and commercial standards.

I should also say that we have had success in areas that might result in standards development activities in the future. Two examples are our vitrification plant at the West Valley Demonstration Project and our wetlands reconstruction at Fernald. A great deal of the methodology developed there could be shared with the rest of the DOE complex through technical standards.

How has information technology influenced the way you do standards work?

The Internet has made possible the universal and immediate availability of information. All users now have instant access to standards, allowing for very rapid research and review. DOE has been a leader in Web page design and accessability of information. At Ohio, we make full use of electronic tools to minimize administrative activities such as copying, collecting, printing and distributing paper. This has allowed the time spent on standards to be the most effective and useful time possible.

What are your interests and hobbies outside your professional work?

My hobbies include photography, work outs at the gym, skating (inline and quad), and bicycling. I just bought a unicycle which I am learning to ride. I enjoy long distance motorcycle rides to races, rallies and runs. I have three children whom I am trying to raise into educated, insightful adults, and a cat named Vincent Black Shadow. My academic work includes teaching in safety and health areas and working on my Ph.D.

Upcoming Meetings

February 5-9, 2000

2000 American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) Winter Meeting

Headquarter Hotel: Adam's Mark Dallas, 400 North Olive, Dallas, Texas

AHR Exposition: Dallas Convention Center, 650 S. Griffin St., Dallas, Texas

Educational programs, technical and cultural tours, social events, committee meetings and the International Air-Conditioning, Heating and Refrigerating Exposition. ASHRAE's committee meetings, both standing and technical, and all technical sessions will be scheduled in the Adam's Mark Dallas.

For more information, check out URL **http://www.ashrae.org/**.

May 14-18, 2000

2000 National Fire Protection Association World Fire Safety Congress & Exposition™

Colorado Convention Center - Denver, Colorado

The World Fire Safety Congress and Exposition™ is a premier educational conference featuring nearly a hundred education sessions led by well-respected industry leaders; the largest fire protection and life safety trade show in North America; and an opportunity to have a voice in NFPA's consensus code-making process.

June 4-8, 2000

2000 American Nuclear Society Annual Meeting and Embedded Topical Meetings

Town & Country Resort and Convention Center- San Diego, California

Embedded International Topical Meeting: Advanced Reactor Safety

4th Embedded Topical Meeting: DOE Spent Nuclear Fuel and Fissile Material Management

A call for papers has been issued; the deadline for submissions is January 7, 2000. Full details for submission are available on the Web at **http://www.ans.org/**.

July 17-20, 2000

The Sixth Nuclear Regulatory Commission/American Society of Mechanical Engineers Sysposium on Valve and Pump Testing

Hyatt Regency Washington - 400 New Jersey Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C.

An exchange of information on technical, programmatic, and regulatory issues associated with the testing of valves and pumps used in nuclear power plants.

For more information, contact Thomas G. Scarbrough, 301-415-2794, **tgs@nrc.gov**.

July 23-27, 2000

2000 ASME Pressure Vessels and Piping Conference

The Westin Hotel - Seattle, Washington

Theme: *A Century of Progress in PVP Technology*

More than 150 paper and panel sessions are planned, as well as tutorials, NDE and software demonstrations, and the Student Paper competition. The Conference is a great place to present your ideas and to meet colleagues as we look ahead to PVP technology in the 21st Century. The ASME Pressure Vessels and Piping Division will sponsor this Conference with participation by the ASME NDE Division.

For more information, check out the Web at **http://www.asme.org/conf/confers.html**.

July 23-26, 2000

International Joint Power Generation Conference & Exposition (IJPGC&E)

Sheraton Bal Harbour - Miami Beach, Florida, USA

Sponsored by ASME's Power, Nuclear and Fuels and Combustions Technologies Divisions, this meeting is widely regarded as one of the power industry's most technically acclaimed events.

For more information, **http://www.asme.org/events/**.

October 18, 2000

2000 World Standards Day Celebration

Washington, D.C.

World Standards Day is a celebration of the voluntary consensus standards system. A number of activities and events showcase the standards and conformity assessment participation of individuals from around the globe.

For more information, contact Jane Schweiker, American National Standards Institute, **jschweik@ansi.org**, 301-469-3363.

November 12-17, 2000

2000 American Nuclear Society International Meeting

Marriott Wardman Park Hotel - Washington, D.C.

Embedded International Topical Meeting: "Best-Estimate" Methods in Nuclear Installation Safety Analysis

Embedded Topical Meeting: Nuclear Plant Instrumentation and Control & Human Interface Technologies

Embedded Topical Meeting: Nuclear Applications of Accelerator Technology

For more information check out URL **http://www.ans.org/meetings/**.

Standards Actions

DOE Technical Standards Recently Sent for Coordination

The appropriate Technical Standards Managers (TSMs) will provide selected reviewers with copies for comment. The full text of this document is available on the Technical Standards Program (TSP) Web Site at the following URL: **http://tis.eh.doe.gov/techstds/**. If you wish to comment on this document please notify your TSM.

- *Glossary of Safety and Health Terms*, Project Number SDMP-0026; M. Norman Schwartz, EH-31; 301-903-2996, Fax 301-903-4594, **Norm.Schwartz@eh.doe.gov**. Comments are due January 28, 2000.

Technical Standards Program Document Status as of 11/22/99

In Conversion	In Preparation	Out for Comment	Published in Past 30 Days
4	43	18	2

Total in process = 61

DOE Documents Recently Published

The following DOE documents have recently been published:

- DOE-STD-1134-99, *Review Guide for Criticality Safety Evaluations*, September 1999.
- DOE-STD-1135-99, *Guidance for Nuclear Criticality Safety Engineer Training and Qualification*, September 1999.

DOE employees and DOE contractors may obtain copies from the ES&H Technical Information Services, U.S. Department of Energy; telephone 1-800-473-4375 or Fax 301-903-9823.

Subcontractors and the general public may obtain copies from the U.S. Department of Commerce, Technology Administration, National Technical Information Service, Springfield, Virginia 22161; telephone 1-800-553-6847 or Fax 703-605-6900.

Copies of DOE Technical Standards (i.e., DOE Standards, Specifications, Handbooks, and Technical Standards Lists) are also available on the Internet at the following URL: **http://tis.eh.doe.gov/techstds/**. The following documents were recently added to the TSP Web Site.

- DOE-HDBK-1117-99, *Guide to Good Practices for Maintenance Supervisor Selection*, October 1999. (This document supersedes DOE-STD-1059-93.)
- DOE-HDBK-1118-99, *Guide to Good Practices for Continuing Training*, October 1999. (This document supersedes DOE-STD-1060-93.)

Non-Government Standards

American National Standards Institute

The American National Standards Institute (ANSI) publishes coordination activities of non-Government standards (NGS) biweekly in *ANSI Standards Action.* Recent electronic copies (no hardcopies are produced) are available on the ANSI Web site at **http://web.ansi.org/rooms/room_14/**. Electronic back copies are available to ANSI members only. For information on site membership, ask your local ANSI contact. For information on individual or group ANSI membership, call Susan Bose at 212-642-4948, e-mail **sbose@ansi.org**.

Hardcopy versions of published non-Government standards listed in this section may be obtained from Global Engineering Documents, 15 Inverness Way East, Englewood, Colorado, 80112, 800-854-7179, Fax 303-397-2740, **global@ihs.com**, **http://global.ihs.com**. Electronic delivery of selected documents is available through ANSI at **http://webstore.ansi.org**. Copies of the listed draft standards and the procedure for commenting on the same may be obtained by contacting the standards developing organization.

The following listings are extracted from *ANSI Standards Action* and are representative of NGS development activities that may be relevant to DOE operations. Refer to *ANSI Standards Action* for a more extensive listing of changes and new publications, standards developing organizations, and additional information about submitting comments. Additional information on ANSI activities and available non-Government standards can be found on the ANSI Web site, **http//www.ansi.org**, or through the National Standards System Network, **http://www.nssn.org**.

The following American National Standards are currently in coordination (comment due dates follow each entry)**:**

- ASHRAE 62g, *Ventilation for Acceptable Indoor Air Quality, Addenda g* (supplement to ANSI/ASHRAE 62-1989) - January 18, 2000.

(Continued on Next Page) ▸

Standards Actions (Continued from Page 7)

- ASTM A694/A694M, *Specification for Carbon and Alloy Steel Forgings for Pipe Flanges, Fittings, Valves, and Parts for High-Pressure Transmission Service* (revision of ANSI/ASTM A694/A694M-98dA) - January 18, 2000.
- ASTM A941, *Terminology Relating to Steel, Stainless Steel, Related Alloys, and Ferroalloys* (revision of ANSI/ASTM A941-99a) - January 18, 2000.
- ASTM D883, *Terminology Relating to Plastics* (revision of ANSI/ASTM D883-98) - January 18, 2000.
- ASTM D975, *Specification for Diesel Fuel Oils* (revision of ANSI/ASTM D975-98B) - January 18, 2000.
- ASTM D2843, *Test Method for Density of Smoke From the Burning of Decomposition of Plastics* (revision of ANSI/ASTM D2843-93) - January 18, 2000.
- ASTM D2997, *Specification for Centrifugally Cast "Fiberglass" (Glass-Fiber-Reinforced Thermosetting-Resin) Pipe* (new standard) - January 18, 2000.
- ASTM E119, *Test Methods for Fire Tests of Building Construction and Materials* (revision of ANSI/ASTM E119-98) - January 18, 2000.
- ASTM Z3263Z, *Methods of Test for Measurement of Synthetic Polymer Material Flammability Using a Fire Propagation Apparatus* (new standard) - January 18, 2000.
- ASTM Z7436Z, *Practice for Installation of Exterior Windows, Doors and Skylights* (new standard) - January 18, 2000.
- AWS C5.5, *Recommended Practices for Gas Tungsten Arc Welding* [revision of ANSI/AWS C5.5-80 (R1994)] - comments due January 4, 2000.
- GTEEMC MSE 2000, *A Management System for Energy* (new standard) - January 18, 2000.
- ISEA 105, *Hand Protection Criteria* (new standard) - comments due January 4, 2000.

The following American National Standards have been approved for publication: (Publication is to take place within six months following the date shown. Publication status and ordering information may be obtained from ANSI's Customer Service at 212-642-4900.)

- ANSI/ASTM E1606-99, *Practice for Electromagnetic (Eddy-Current) Examination of Copper Redraw Rod for Electrical Purposes* (revision of ANSI/ASTM E1606-97) - September 10, 1999.
- ANSI/AWS D16.3-1999, *Risk Assessment Guide for Robotic Welding* (new standard) - October 14, 1999.
- ANSI/CGA V-9-1997, *Compressed Gas Cylinder Valves* (revision of ANS/CGA V-9-1991 - October 5, 1999.
- ANSI N13.52-1999, *Personnel Neutron Dosimeters (Neutron Energies Less Than 20 MeV)* [revision and redesignation of ANSI N319-1976 (R1984)] - October 26, 1999.
- ANSI Z245.30-1999, *Equipment Technology and Operations for Wastes and Recyclable Materials - Waste Containers - Safety Requirements* (revision of ANSI Z245.30-1994) - October 20, 1999.
- ANSI/IEEE 845-1999, *Guide for the Evaluation of Human-System Performance in Nuclear Power Generating Stations* (revision of ANSI/IEEE 845-1988) - October 26, 1999.
- ANSI/IEEE 1242-1999, *Guide for Specifying and Selecting Power, Control and Special Purpose Cable for Petroleum and Chemical Plants* (new standard) - October 26, 1999.
- ANSI/NFPA 11A-1998, *Medium- and High-Expansion Foam Systems* (revision of ANSI/NFPA 11A-1994) - February 8, 1999.
- ANSI/NFPA 16-1998, *Installation of Deluge Foam-Water Sprinkler and Foam-Water Spray Systems* (revision of ANSI/NFPA 16-1995) - February 8, 1999.
- ANSI/NFPA 50B-1998, *Liquefied Hydrogen Systems at Consumer Sites* (revision of ANSI/NFPA 50B-1994) - February 8, 1999.
- ANSI/NFPA 51B-1998, *Fire Prevention in Use of Cutting and Welding Processes* (revision of ANSI/NFPA 51B-1994) - February 8, 1999.
- ANSI/NFPA 101B-1998, *Means of Egress Code* (new standard) - February 8, 1999.
- ANSI/NFPA 110-1998, *Emergency and Standby Power Systems* (revision of ANSI/NFPA 110-1996) - February 8, 1999.
- ANSI/NFPA 120-1998, *Coal Preparation Plants* (revision of ANSI/NFPA 120-1994) - February 8, 1999.
- ANSI/NFPA 262-1998, *Method of Test for Fire and Smoke Characteristics of Wires and Cables* (revision of ANSI/NFPA 262-1994) - February 8, 1999.
- ANSI/NFPA 1670-1998, *Operations and Trainings for Technical Rescue Incidents* (new standard) - February 8, 1999.
- ANSI/NFPA 1975-1998, *Station/Work Uniforms for Fire Fighters* (revision of ANSI/NFPA 1975-1994) - February 8, 1999.
- ANSI/NFPA 8502-1998, *Prevention of Furnace Explosions/Implosions in Multiple Burner Boilers* (revision of ANSI/NFPA 8502-1995) - February 8, 1999.

The following international standards are currently in coordination (comment due dates follow each entry)**:**

- ISO/DIS 10848-1, *Acoustics - Laboratory measurement of the flanking transmission of airborne and impact noise between adjoining rooms - Part 1: Frame document* - February 11, 2000.
- ISO/DIS 16070, *Petroleum and natural gas industries - Downhole equipment - Lock mandrels and landing nipples* - February 4, 2000.
- prEN 54-12, *Fire detection and fire alarm systems - Part 12: Smoke detectors - Line detectors using an optical light beam* - December 30, 1999.

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Standards Actions (Continued from Page 8)

- prEN 13042-10, *Machines and plants for the manufacture, treatment and processing of hollow glass - Safety requirements - Part 10: machines for cutting laboratory glass* - February 9, 2000.
- prEN 13685, *Rigid waste containers for solid and liquid hazardous waste with capacities from 80 l to 3000 l* - February 29, 2000.
- prEN 45510-2-6:1999, *Guide for procurement of power station equipment - Part 2-6: Electrical equipment - Generators* (for information).
- prEN ISO 10438-1, *Petroleum and natural gas industries - Lubrication, shaft-sealing and control-oil systems and auxiliaries - Part 1: General requirements* (ISO/DIS 10438-1) - January 29, 2000.
- prEN ISO 15156-1, *Petroleum and natural gas industries - Materials for use in H_2S containing environments in oil and gas production - Part 1: General principles* (ISO/DIS 15156-1:1999) - January 29, 2000.
- prEN ISO 15630-1, *Steel for the reinforcement and prestressing of concrete - Test methods - Part 1: Reinforcing bars and wires* (ISO/DIS 15630-1:1999) - January 23, 2000.

The following newly published international standards are available:

- ISO 642:1999, *Steel - Hardenability test by end quenching (Jominy test).*
- ISO 6506-1:1999, *Metallic materials - Brinell hardness test - Part 1: Test method.*
- ISO 6508-1:1999, *Metallic materials - Rockwell hardness test - Part 1: Test method (scales A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, K, N, T).*
- ISO 9241-16:1999, *Ergonomic requirements for office work with visual display terminals (VDTs) - Part 16: Direct manipulation dialogues.*
- ISO 9809-1:1999, *Gas cylinders - Refillable seamless steel gas cylinders - Design, construction and testing - Part 1: Quenched and tempered steel cylinders with tensile strength less than 1 100 MPa.*
- ISO 12715:1999, *Ultrasonic non-destructive testing - Reference blocks and test procedures for the characterization of contact search unit beam profiles.*
- ISO 12944-5:1998, *Paints and varnishes - Corrosion protection of steel structures by paint systems - Part 5: Protective paint systems.*
- ISO 13786: 1999, *Thermal performance of building components - Dynamic thermal characteristics - Calculation methods.*
- ISO 14021:1999, *Environmental labels and declarations - Self-declared environmental claims (Type II environmental labeling).*
- ISO/TR 13387-1:1999, *Fire safety engineering - Part 1: Application of fire performance concepts to design objectives.*
- ISO/TR 13387-7:1999, *Fire safety engineering - Part 7: Detection, activation and suppression.*
- ISO/TR 13387-8:1999, *Fire safety engineering - Part 8: Life safety - Occupant behavior, location and condition.*

American National Standards Projects Initiated

The following is a list of proposed new American National Standards or revisions to existing American National Standards submitted to ANSI by accredited standards developers. DOE employees or contractors interested in participating in these activities should contact the appropriate standards developing organization. DOE-TSL-4 lists the DOE representatives on NGS committees. If no DOE representative is listed, contact the TSPO for information on participating in NGS activities.

American Welding Society
Office: 550 NW LeJeune Road
Miami, FL 33126
Fax: 305-443-5951
Contact: Charles Fassinger, **chuck@aws.org**
- AWS B4.0M, *Standard Methods for Mechanical Testing of Welds* (new standard).

Georgia Tech Energy and Environmental Management Center
Office: 151 Sixth Street, Room 142
Atlanta, GA 30332-0640
Fax: 404-894-1192
Contact: Ginny Key, **ginnykey@edi.gatech.edu**
- GTEEMC MSE 2000, *A Management System for Energy* (new standard).

National Electrical Manufacturers Association
Office: 1300 North 17th Street, Suite 1847
Rosslyn, VA 22209
Fax: 703-841-3342
Contact: Mervis C. Calwise, **mer_calwise@nema.org**
- C37.06, *Switchgear - AC High-Voltage Circuit Breakers Rated on a Symmetrical Current Basis - Preferred Ratings and Related Required Capabilities* (revision of ANSI C37.06-1997).

Underwriters Laboratories, Inc.
Office: 1655 Scott Boulevard
Santa Clara, CA 95050
Fax: **408-556-6045**
Contact: Linda Phinney-George, **georgel@ul.com**
- UL 132, *Standard for Safety for Safety Relief Valves for Anhydrous Ammonia and LP-Gas* (new standard).

American Society for Testing and Materials

Standards activities of the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) are published monthly in ASTM *Standardization News.* Orders for subscriptions or single copies of ASTM *Standardization News* may be submitted to ASTM, Subscription Dept.-SN, 100 Barr Harbor Drive, West Conshohocken,

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Standards Actions (Continued from Page 9)

Pennsylvania 19428-2959. For information regarding ASTM membership, contact the Membership Services Department at 610-832-9691 (Fax 610-832-9667). ASTM publications may be ordered from the ASTM Customer Services Department at 610-832-9585 (Fax 610-832-9555). Comments on listed draft standards may be submitted by contacting the ASTM Standards Coordination Department at the above address. Questions may be addressed to the Technical Committee Operations Division at 610-832-9672 (Fax 610-832-9666). Additional information on ASTM activities is available on the ASTM Web site, **http://www.astm.org**. The following listings are extracted from ASTM *Standardization News* and are representative of NGS development activities that may be relevant to DOE operations.

The following ASTM standards are currently in coordination: (the due date for all items is December 10, 1999).

- New Standard, *Test Method for Determination of Ply Adhesion Strength of Reinforced Geomembranes* (Ref. Z1882Z).
- New Standard, *Methods of Test for Measurement of Synthetic Polymer Material Flammability Using a Fire Propagation Apparatus* (Ref. Z3263Z).
- New Standard, *Guide for Acceptance Testing Requirements for Geosynthetic Clay Liners* (Ref. Z7010Z).
- New Standard, *Guide for Mechanical Attachment of Geomembrane to Penetrations or Structures* (Ref. Z7507Z).
- D 5144-97, *Guide for Use of Protective Coating Standards in Nuclear Power Plants* (revised standard).

The following newly published standards are available from ASTM:

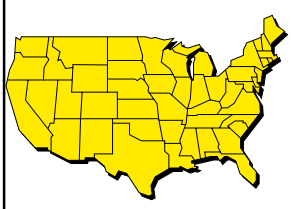
- A 645/A 645M-99a, *Specification for Pressure Vessel Plates, 5 Percent Nickel Alloy Steel, Specially Heat Treated* (revised standard).
- A 703/A 703M-99, *Specification for Steel Castings, General Requirements, for Pressure-Containing Parts* (revised standard).
- C 753-99, *Specification for Nuclear-Grade, Sinterable Uranium Dioxide Powder* (new standard).
- C 1112-99, *Guide for Application of Radiation Monitors to the Control and Physical Security of Special Nuclear Material* (new standard).
- C 1422-99, *Specification for Chemically-Strengthened Flat Glass* (new standard).
- C 1431-99, *Guide for Corrosion Testing of Aluminum-Based Spent Nuclear Fuel in Support of Repository Disposal* (new standard).
- C 1432-99, *Test Method for Determination of Impurities in Plutonium: Acid Dissolution, Ion Exchange Matrix Separation, and Inductively Coupled Plasma-Atomic Emission Spectroscopic (ICP/AES) Analysis* (new standard).
- C 1437-99, *Test Method for Flow of Hydraulic Cement Mortar* (new standard).
- D 1129-99a, *Terminology Relating to Water* (revised standard).
- D 2864-99, *Terminology Relating to Electrical Insulating Liquids and Gases* (revised standard).
- D 5865-99, *Test Method for Gross Calorific Value of Coal and Coke* (revised standard).
- D 6413-99, *Test Method for Flame Resistance of Textiles Vertical Test* (new standard).
- D 6427-99, *Practice for Handling, Transportation, and Storage of HFC-236fa,1, 1, 1, 3, 3, 3-Hexafluoropropane ($CF_3CH_2CF_3$)* (new standard).
- D 6439-99, *Guide for Cleaning, Flushing, and Purification of Steam, Gas, and Hydroelectric Turbine Lubrication Systems* (new standard).
- E 84-99, *Test Method for Surface Burning Characteristics of Building Materials* (revised standard).
- E 473-99, *Terminology Relating to Thermal Analysis* (revised standard).
- E 497-99, *Practice for Installing Sound-Isolating Lightweight Partitions* (revised standard).
- E 647-99, *Test Method for Measurement of Fatigue Crack Growth Rates* (revised standard).
- E 1253-99, *Guide for Reconstitution of Irradiated Charpy-Sized Specimens* (revised standard).
- E 2020-99, *Guide for Data and Information Needs for Conducting an Ecological Risk Assessment as Contaminated Sites* (new standard).
- F 496-99, *Specification for In-Service Care of Insulating Gloves and Sleeves* (revised standard).
- F 1494-99, *Terminology Relating to Protective Clothing* (revised standard).
- G 15-99a, *Terminology Relating to Corrosion and Corrosion Testing* (revised standard).
- PS 116-99, *Practice for the Performance Evaluation of the Portable X-Ray Fluorescence Spectrometer for the Measurement of Lead in Paint Films* (new standard).

Comments, Questions, and Addresses

Comments: If you have any questions or comments, please contact Rick Serbu, EH-31, Manager, DOE Technical Standards Program Office (TSPO), 301-903-2856, Fax 301-903-6172, **Richard.Serbu@eh.doe.gov**.

Addresses: To update the distribution list for this publication, please contact Marty Marchbanks, ORNL, 423-241-3658, Fax 423-574-0382, **mmf@ornl.gov**.

Technical Standards Activities: The TSPO would like to be kept informed of the status of technical standards that are being prepared or coordinated for DOE. Please provide this information to the TSPO at 423-574-7886, **lj8@ornl.gov**.



Single Family of Codes Complete!—BOCA, ICBO and SBCCI Finalize Process at Joint Annual Conference

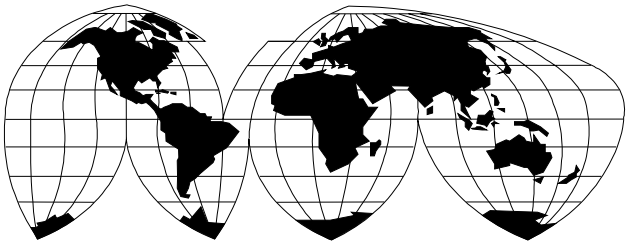
Unified under the goal to develop a single family of national model construction codes, the nation's three model code groups, Building Officials and Code Administrators International (BOCA), International Conference of Building Officials (ICBO) and Southern Building Code Congress International (SBCCI), accomplished their objective at a joint annual conference September 12–17, 1999, in St. Louis, Missouri. The year 2000 codes have moved through a series of orderly steps that included public review, discussion, formal comment and final approval. The codes are being prepared for publication early next year.

The 2000 International Building Code(tm), International Residential Code™, and International Fire Code™ were the final three codes completed at the annual meeting. The previously developed 1997 International Plumbing Code™, 1997 International Private Sewage Disposal Code(tm), 1998 International Zoning Code™, 1998 International Property Maintenance Code™, 1998 International Mechanical Code™, 1998 International Energy Conservation Code(tm), 1999 International Electrical Code™, 1997 International Fuel Gas Code™ were updated to the 2000 editions.

BOCA, ICBO and SBCCI formed the International Code Council (ICC) in 1994 to create the single family of codes to promote unprecedented code uniformity throughout the country. The International Codes, promulgated by the ICC, have received widespread support from leading organizations and groups in the building industry, including the American Institute of Architects, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Building Owners and Managers Association, National Association of Home Builders, National Multi-Housing Council, Alliance of American Insurers, and numerous other statewide and local associations of construction industry and citizens groups.

For more information contact Soy Williams, Government Relations Director, Falls Church, Virginia, 703-931-4533, or visit the ICC Web site at **http://www.intlcode.org/**.

The World of Standards



NEWS BRIEFS

Institute of Electricial and Electronics Engineers-Standards Association (IEEE-SA) Pilot Program Aims for Accelerated Standards Project Approval

The IEEE-SA Standards Board recently approved a six-month pilot program for continuous processing and electronic dissemination of Project Authorization Requests (PARs). The program aims to reduce the maximum time needed to process a PAR from approximately 90 days to about 30 days using e-mail and the Web.

The time reduction will be made possible through the electronic dissemination of PARs and accompanying documents via e-mail to New Standards Committee (NesCom) members. NesCom is responsible for reviewing potential new standards projects and making recommendations to the IEEE-SA Standards Board on the approval of new projects.

According to Jim Carlo, chair of NesCom, "This continuous processing of PARs is part of the NesCom 2000 initiative to improve the response time of PAR approvals (to 30 days)."

The acceleration of the PAR process means that projects will be brought to completion in a much quicker manner than ever before. The savings in time will particularly benefit the industry sponsors of standards, who will see their products brought to market in an accelerated manner. The revised process will also benefit members of the IEEE-SA Standards Board, as their efforts will be spread over a period of time, instead of concentrated into a particular period every quarter.

Further information regarding this pilot program can be obtained from Jodi Haasz, NesCom Administrator, at **j.haasz@ieee.org**, or at **http://standards.ieee.org/**.

International Organization for Standardization (ISO) Initiates Standards Actions in the Global Market (SGM)

Geneva, Switzerland, November 15, 1999 - Today marked the launching of the Standards Actions in the Global Market (SGM) Forum, a new grouping which brings together international organizations representing both the private and governmental sectors that have a stake in standardization as developers or users.

The Forum comprises 11 international organizations from within and without the United Nations (UN) system. The ISO President, Prof. Giacomo Elias commented: "I am convinced that the SGM Forum is destined to play a very special role as a facilitator of a greater partnership of public and private sectors—a theme which we know is very dear to the heart of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Kofi Annan."

Read the whole story at **http://www.iso.ch/presse/forum.htm**, or for more information contact Roger Frost, Press Officer, ISO Central Secretariat, Tel. +41 22 749 01 11, Fax +41 22 733 34 30, **frost@iso.ch**.

Topical Committee Developments

There are currently 23 Technical Standards Program (TSP) Topical Committees listed on the TSP Home Page. The newest committees are Chemical Safety, DOE Human Factors/Ergonomics (Human Performance), and DOE Pressure System Safety. A signed charter for Explosive Safety is now available. Those topical committees still developing charters include: Accreditation Topical Committee, Emergency Management Issues SIG (EMI SIG), Packaging and Transportation SIG (PATS SIG), and Performance-Based Management SIG (PBM SIG)

To enhance coordination among DOE's nuclear safety experts, we are looking for groups of nuclear safety subject matter experts to form topical committees that are counterparts to American Nuclear Society subcommittees. Are you are a member of a working group or technical group especially dealing with aspects of nuclear safety that would like to be recognized across the DOE complex? Would you like the opportunity to share ideas with like-minded scientists and engineers in the Department in a time of scarce resources? Would you like to be more involved in standards work? If you are part of a group of subject matter experts that would like to affiliate with the TSP as a topical committee, contact M. Norman Schwartz, 301-903-2996, **Norm.Schwartz@eh.doe.gov**, or Richard Serbu, 301-903-2856, **Richard.Serbu@en.doe.gov**.

Chemical Safety Topical Committee—New Handbook in the Works on Chemical Management Programs

By Billy Lee, Office of Worker Protection Programs and Hazards Management (HQ DOE/EH-52)

The Department of Energy Office of Worker Health and Safety has prepared a draft handbook for chemical management programs in cooperation with the Chemical Safety Interest Group (CSIG). The CSIG, now chartered as the Chemical Safety Topical Committee (CSTC), was established during the November 1998 Chemical Safety Issues Workshop that was jointly sponsored by the Energy Facility Contractors Group (EFCOG) Safety Analysis Working Group and the DOE Office of Worker Health and Safety. The CSTC membership is comprised of DOE contractors and Federal employees responsible for chemical safety. DOE Technical Standards Managers and members of CSTC are reviewing the Chemical Management Program (CMP) Handbook. We expect the review to be complete by early 2000. You can find a draft copy of this handbook at **http://tis-hq.eh.doe.gov/web/chem_safety/** The handbook is intended to supplement DOE P 450.4, "Safety Management System Policy," and DOE G 450.4-1, "Integrated Safety Management (ISM) System Guide." This handbook addresses important aspects of ISM core safety functions which include: defining the scope of work; analyzing hazards; developing and implementing appropriate hazard controls; performing work within the controls; and assuring continuous improvement. The handbook will assist those DOE sites that need help in developing a CMP to comply with the numerous industrial standards and regulatory requirements for chemical safety.

The handbook describes the elements found in a recommended model CMP. It includes the requirements for management review of system performance that are applicable to the many chemical operations within the DOE complex. The handbook addresses essential management program components, including inventory tracking and control of chemicals, identification and analysis of chemical hazards, and management of change for chemicals. It addresses functional requirements for chemical management from acquisition to final disposition and considers factors such as mission, life cycle of interim operations, complexity of operations and associated hazards. The handbook incorporates "best management practices" from DOE Headquarters, DOE field operations, and the private sector including the Chemical Manufacturers Association and the American Institute of Chemical Engineers' Center for Chemical Process Safety. The handbook also provides a "benchmark" for evaluating the adequacy of Chemical Management Programs. The CSTC expects this document to serve as an invaluable source of information on chemical safety programs for site professionals and for those managers responsible for the Department's ISM process.

Three DOE Groups Meet Budget Challenges by Combining Annual Meetings Into One Special Session

*By: Don Ragland Sandia National Laboratories-Albuquerque (SNLA) (505-845-9623, **dragla@sandia.gov**)*

In an effort to address reduced travel budgets spanning the entire DOE complex, the DOE Topical Committees in Accreditation and Metrology and the DOE Standards Laboratory Managers of the Nuclear Weapons Complex have elected to conduct their 2000 annual meetings during the same week at Allied Signal/Kansas City in March 2000.

The Steering Committees of the three groups reviewed their respective agendas and concluded that it would be feasible and mutually productive if they combined their annual meetings back-to-back in one location during the same time period.

All three groups share memberships and overlapping interests. They view this move as one that will not only address DOE budget concerns but also provide an excellent opportunity to tap into the potential synergy that such a session could produce.

The special session is scheduled for the week of March 20–24, 2000. An e-mail notice of the session is scheduled to be sent to the constituencies of each group during December 1999, and formal notices containing agenda and registration information will be mailed in January 2000.

For more information, interested persons should contact Bob Wayland, 505-845-9771, **jrwayla@sandia.gov**.

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▸ **Topical Committee Developments** (Continued from Page12)

Performance-Based Management Special Interest Group

Performance-Based Management SIG—Fall Meeting

By: Will Artley, Performance-Based Management SIG (PBM SIG) Coordinator, 901-373-7493, Fax 901-373-4998, **artleyw@orau.gov**.

The PBM SIG—a Department-wide group dedicated to facilitating, promoting, and advancing performance-based management in DOE—held its 1999 Fall Meeting at DOE Headquarters on November 16–17, 1999. The first day featured a slate of speakers addressing the theme of "The Future of Performance-Based Management in DOE." The list included Richard Hopf, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Procurement and Assistance Management (MA-5); Mike Telson, Chief Financial Officer (CR-1); the Honorable Maurice McTigue, former Cabinet member, New Zealand Parliament; and Walter Groszyk (OMB), Project Leader for the Government Performance and Results Act of 1993 Implementation. The second day offered four workshops provided by "expert" PBM SIG members on Alignment to the Strategic Plan; Integrated Performance Measurement; Data Analysis, Management and Presentation; and Using Performance Information to Drive Improvement. For more information on the PBM SIG, visit their Web site at **http://www.orau.gov/pbm**.

The following book has been published by the National Research Council and may be of interest to DOE Technical Standards Program participants: "Improving Project Management in the Department of Energy," by the Committee to Assess the Policies and Practices of the Department of Energy to Design, Manage, and Procure Environmental Restoration, Waste Management, and Other Construction Projects, National Research Council (150 pages , 6 x 9, 1999, **http://books.nap.edu/catalog/9627.html**.

Quality Assurance (QA) Topical Committee—Playing an Active Role in the DOE TSP

*By: Denise Viator, Coordinator, Quality and Safety Management Special Interest Group (QSM SIG), 576-3316, **ViatorD@orau.gov**.*

The QSM SIG was the first of four Training Resources and Data Exchange special interest groups (TRADE SIGs) to become chartered as DOE Technical Standards Program Topical (TSP) Committees. The other three are the Occurrence Reporting, Industrial Hygiene/Occupational Safety, and Performance-Based Management (OR SIG, IH/OS SIG, and PBM SIG respectively).

The DOE TSP Manager, Richard Serbu, signed the QSM SIG topical committee charter in June 1997. The charter requires the QA Topical Committee "to provide a forum for, and to facilitate the interaction between, DOE and DOE contractor personnel with a common interest in identifying and resolving standards-related issues for the DOE Technical Standards Program Office." The Committee's mission is "to develop, improve, and provide quality management materials and implementation information for the DOE community."

In FY98, the QA Topical Committee reviewed nine standards or portions of standards. In FY99, they reviewed another fourteen, and the committee has already reviewed three this fiscal year. All of these national or international standards are important to their facilities' responsibilities for quality assurance.

The Committee also assists Gustave (Bud) Danielson, DOE/EH-31, with his responsibilities in standards committees and networks where he represents DOE. Bud reports that "Having the Committee to consult on the impacts of changes in standards or of new standards gives me the broad perspective that no single individual could have. Information and recommendations from the QA Topical Committee members have really been useful to me in these activities. The Topical Committee also allows me to project a strong and authoritative voice for DOE that is essential to having an impact on the national/international standards consensus process."

Charles (Chuck) Moseley, 2000 Chair of the QSM SIG Steering Committee, stating from a contractor's perspective, "the QA Topical Committee provides a mechanism for standards-related implementation issues to be identified, understood, and resolved early in the process. The broad representation of DOE and DOE contractor personnel on the Committee is a plus to understanding and possibly minimizing the impact of changes on the many businesses across the complex. The Committee is a very important tool for communicating what is happening in the standards world."

2nd Annual DOE Accreditation Committee Meeting Focused on Coordination of Accreditation Issues

*By: Don Ragland Sandia National Laboratories-Albuquerque (SNLA) (505-845-9623, **dragla@sandia.gov**)*

On September 22–23, 1999, the 2nd Annual Meeting of the DOE Topical Committee on Accreditation (AC) was held at Idaho National Environmental and Engineering Laboratory (INEEL) in Idaho Falls.

The AC working groups re-evaluated the action items resulting from the first annual meeting and chose to continue those efforts as well as expand upon them. The Communications group, chaired by Laura Kelly, Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL), is focusing on establishing an Accreditation Web site by early 2000. Another group, Accreditation Activities External to DOE (Dick Pettit, Chair), is seeking continued DOE representation on the National Cooperation on Laboratory Accreditation (NACLA) Board of Directors. In addition, this group will be obtaining updates from various accreditation organizations and

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Topical Committee Developments
(Continued from Page 13)

reporting their findings to the general committee. Their ongoing effort is the promoting of NACLA membership to DOE organizations. A third group, Accreditation Activities Within DOE (Ken Harrison, Chair), is surveying DOE organizations to establish a baseline of all the accreditations that DOE facilities, laboratories, contractors, etc, must have in order to perform work within the DOE complex. The goal is the publication of a gap analysis based on their findings.

Five persons were featured speakers at the AC meeting. Representatives from NACLA, the DOE Laboratory Accreditation Program, and the National Voluntary Laboratory Accreditation Program (NVLAP) updated the AC on activities of the past year. Ken Harrison, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, related his experiences at auditing DOE contractor labs and cited significant issues (weaknesses) that he found among them. He also listed Lessons Learned to which he believes DOE labs should pay attention. Harry Moody, INEEL, spoke on the value of obtaining NVLAP accreditation and described the recent audit of INEEL performed by NVLAP. He declared several particular benefits that INEEL gained prior to the audit, during it, and after it. Moody emphasized the importance of NVLAP accreditation as a "value added" exercise and as the "right" thing to do for DOE metrology labs.

Other items addressed by the AC included the adoption of a formal Statement in Support of NACLA, Official Accreditation Committee By-Laws, and the election of a permanent Steering Committee to lead the AC.

The Third Annual Meeting of the AC will be conducted at a joint special session in conjunction with the DOE Metrology Topical Committee and the DOE Standards Laboratory Managers of the Nuclear Weapons Complex. The special session is scheduled for March 2000 at Allied Signal/Kansas City.

Membership in the AC is open to all DOE personnel and DOE contractors involved with accreditation.

For more information, interested persons should contact: Bob Wayland at 505-845-9771, **jrwayla@sandia.gov**. This article is also available for viewing on the DOE/TSPO Web site: **http://apollo.OSTI.gov/html/techstds/genframe.html**.

Biota Dose Assessment Committee—Annual Meeting Proves Successful in Advancing Technical Standard on Biota Dose Method

By: Stephen Domotor, Chair, Biota Dose Assessment Committee (202-586-0871; ***Stephen.Domotor@eh.doe.gov****)*

The first annual meeting of the Biota Dose Assessment Committee (BDAC) was hosted and chaired by the Department of Energy's Office of Environmental Policy and Assistance, Air, Water and Radiation Division (EH-412) on August 18-20, 1999, in Washington, D.C. Representatives from DOE program and field offices, national laboratories, state (Washington State Dept. of Health) and federal (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; U.S. Army Corps of Engineers) agencies, and international (International Atomic Energy Agency; Atomic Energy of Canada, Ltd.) agencies participated in the meeting.

The principal theme for this first annual meeting was "Requirements and Guidance for Evaluating Doses to Biota." DOE has been very active in this area for the last several years, particularly in the last year when this topical committee was formed to help the Department formulate a screening methodology and graded approach for evaluating doses to biota. The DOE Technical Standard, "A Graded Approach for Evaluating Radiation Doses to Aquatic and Terrestrial Biota (Project ENVR 0011)," is being produced using a consensus-based process through the BDAC. This voluntary DOE Technical Standard is expected to be available in 2000 for use in evaluating doses for comparison to DOE's existing and proposed dose limits for biota, and for conducting ecological assessments of radiological impact.

Mr. Ray Berube (DOE, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Environment) provided welcoming remarks, thanked BDAC members for their participation and "pioneering spirit," and expressed his support of the BDAC's efforts in developing this Technical Standard. The goals and objectives for the meeting included:

(1) working towards finalizing the DOE Technical Standard for evaluating radiation doses to biota;

(2) giving BDAC members an important opportunity to pilot the screening and analysis methodologies and refine the methods in response to their input;

(3) sharing information on requirements and guidance for protection of biota - and learning from each other relative to site-specific biota dose assessment needs, lessons learned from existing methods implementation, international initiatives, an environmental parameters database, and ongoing radioecological research; and

(4) creating a path forward for finalizing the DOE Technical Standard, and for FY 2000 BDAC activities.

Comments and feedback from meeting participants (e.g., the user community) regarding the technical derivation of the biota dose evaluation methodology and application of the DOE graded approach were very favorable. Recommendations provided during the meeting, particularly on the example applications of the methodology using site-supplied data, and resulting from group break-out discussions, produced additional implementation guidance and refinements to the technical methodology which are now being incorporated into the final DOE Technical Standard. We expect to submit this Technical Standard to the formal DOE-TSP review and approval process in early 2000. Detailed meeting presentations, and a Summary Report of the meeting, can be downloaded from the BDAC Web Site (**http://tis-nt.eh.doe.gov/oepa/public/bdac**) by clicking on the "1999 Workshop" button and selecting the desired materials.

Federal Government Coordination on Standards (Continued from Page 1)

Defense, and 12 independent agencies, such as the Environmental Protection Agency and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. This representative, the Standards Executive, is responsible for effective agency implementation of the Law and the OMB A-119 Circular on Standards Policy, and for working with other agencies to identify and resolve common issues.

As required by the Law, NIST works with the ICSP members to prepare an annual report summarizing progress in four key areas:

- Use of government-unique standards along with an accompanying explanation of why voluntary standards were not used;
- Use of voluntary standards in lieu of originating new or revising agency-unique standards;
- Number of Federal personnel participating in voluntary standards activities; and
- Suggestions for improving Federal use of standards and participation in their development.

In 1998, for example, ICSP members told NIST that more than 3,000 Federal employees served on more than 850 standards-writing bodies. During the past year, ICSP members used about 2,600 voluntary standards, including about 150 voluntary standards that were substituted for government-unique standards, while developing only about 15 government-unique standards in cases where no applicable voluntary standard was available.

Current ICSP Activities

The mere reporting of standards use is not sufficient, however. The ICSP is working to identify and resolve cross-cutting issues that affect Federal agencies and develop policies for guiding agencies as they use voluntary standards. For example, during the past year, the ICSP, which meets quarterly, focused on input to revision of the OMB Circular A-119 (published in February 1998) on guidance for standards-related activities and input to a NIST Guidance on Conformity Assessment (to be published later this year). In addition, representatives from standards developing organizations, such as ASTM, are regularly invited to brief the ICSP on cross-cutting issues and to work on strategies for solving common problems together.

The ICSP encourages each agency to develop and implement a standards policy. These policies will integrate the use of voluntary standards into overall agency objectives and policies. In this process, NIST assists agencies as they develop internal processes for committing staff and financial resources to standards-related activities.

Many key issues and procedural matters require ICSP attention. Examples of on-going activities include: procedures for examining and using relevant standards, gap analyses, representational and participation issues, copyright and licensing issues, financial demands and resources, and the inevitable questions that arise during the implementation of agency-wide strategic standards policies and procedures.

With technical assistance from other ICSP members and NIST, each agency is developing an internal process for committing staff, including assessment of appropriate financial support, monitoring participation, and ensuring adequate preparation and coordination of positions within and between agencies prior to meetings. Failure to do this can result in duplication of effort and missed opportunities, or even conflicts particularly when there is multiple representation. Each agency defines its own position on technical and policy matters, and then works with other agencies to ensure a coordinated Federal position or positions. The ICSP is also recommending that conditions under which individual staff members participate in individual activities be clearly communicated to agency staff and the relevant standards organizations.

Topical Activities of the ICSP

The ICSP has formed a number of working groups to address standards-related issues. These include groups on: laboratory accreditation, directory database, strategic standards management, regulatory agency issues, procurement agency procedures, agency participation, ISO 9000, ISO 14000, and liaison with another Federal interagency committee on interoperability.

ASTM and other standards developers provided impetus for the regulatory working group to take on the task of correcting reference to out-of-date standards in Federal regulations. This group is examining processes for referencing voluntary standards and will provide recommendations for streamlining it. Under the Administrative Procedures Act, agencies seeking to reference voluntary standards as part of mandatory requirements must go through formal rule-making procedures to adopt new standards and cite newer versions of standards already referenced in agency regulations. This ICSP working group is reviewing simplified or expedited procedures for adopting or referencing the most current version of voluntary standards within mandatory rules and regulations. Its members are also considering greater Federal use of on-line participation in voluntary standards development.

In the Directory Database working group, members are revising government-wide guidelines for identifying and reporting of Federal Government staff on standards developing committees in both hard copy and electronic form. Another group is looking at the means by which Federal agencies can evaluate and implement environmental management systems such as those contained in ISO 14000. The Laboratory Accreditation working group is cataloguing Federal activities throughout the country related to laboratory accreditation. This group also reviewed and provided comments to the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) for the proposed revision of ISO/IEC Guide 25, General Requirements for the Competence of Testing and Calibration Laboratories. The Standards Management Working Group convened the first Federal Technical Standards Workshop in August 1998. There, representatives of Federal agencies, support contractors, standards development organizations, and private industry shared standards success stories, "lessons learned," and discussions of emerging initiatives.

(Continued on Next Page)

▸ Federal Government Coordination on Standards (Continued from Page 15)

To strengthen communication between public and private sector, NIST hosted two open workshops to identify common issues and concerns. At the first meeting, held in September 1998 and cosponsored by ANSI, more than 300 people met to air views on possible ingredients of a "national standards strategy." Many concerns were raised about conformity assessment in this meeting, leading to a second meeting in February 1999 solely on these issues. These activities serve as a forum for discussing and beginning to resolve issues in standards and conformity assessment that are common to both public and private sector - as directed by PL 104-113 - and strengthen the closer links that the ICSP is building with the voluntary standards community.

Conclusions

As NIST and Federal agencies implement their responsibilities under the National Technology Transfer and Advancement Act (PL 104-113), we will continue to coordinate with other Federal agencies to achieve greater reliance on voluntary standards and conformity assessment bodies and decreased dependence on in-house regulations. To achieve these goals, NIST will continue to work to make the ICSP a vital and more effective forum for coordinating Federal efforts in both standards and conformity assessment, and for encouraging and documenting agency use of private sector voluntary standards.

To be successful, we must cooperate effectively with Federal, state and local governments, and with the private sector—including ASTM and other standards developers—to build systems to meet the goals of the Law while maintaining our high standards of safety, health and the protection of the environment.

References

1. Public Law 104-113 (104th Congress). National Technology Transfer and Advancement Act of 1995. 15 USC 3701. Washington, D.C. Signed by the President, March 7, 1996.

2. National Research Council. Standards, Conformity Assessment and Trade into the 21st Century. Washington, D.C., National Academy Press, 1995.

Do you know an IEEE standard only by it's common name, but need the full name and/or document number for ordering or referencing purposes? IEEE has an interesting FAQ Web Page that can help you find IEEE standards when you only know the "buzzword" or acronym (e.g., Emerald Book, Fire Wire, IDEF, Sbus, White Book) for the standard. The page is called "Acronyms, Buzzwords, and Commonly Asked Questions About Standards," and is located at **http://standards.ieee.org/faqs/buzzwords.html**.

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